

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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ACDA-07 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /066 W
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R 251800Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5949
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINC EUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03521

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SW, GW
SUBJECT: CSCE/CBM'S: SWEDISH CONSULTATIONS; FRG
POSITION ON MAJOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS

REFS: (A) NATO A-58 DTD FEB. 4, 1977
(B) BONN 00556 DTG 111837Z JAN 77 (NOTAL)
(C) STATE 029626 DTG 092210Z FEB 77 (NOTAL)

1. THE GERMAN-SWEDISH BILATERAL CSCE CONSULTATIONS LAST WEEK IN STOCKHOLM DID NOT BRING ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CBM FIELD. FONOFF CBM OFFICIAL GESCHER, WHO ACCOMPANIED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER-LANDRUT TO STOCKHOLM FOR THE TALKS, REPORTED HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE SWEDES WERE BEING VERY CAREFUL NOT TO ADOPT THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR BETWEEN EAST AND WEST ON CBM'S. GESCHER THOUGHT THE SWEDES WOULD NOT REPEAT AT BELGRADE THEIR PROPOSAL FOR REDUCING MILITARY BUDGETS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE SWEDES WERE RELUCTANT TO INTRODUCE A WARMED-OVER PROPOSAL ALREADY ADVANCED IN OTHER FORA.

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2. GESCHER NOTED THAT THE SWEDES WERE QUITE FORTHCOMING DURING THE CONSULTATIONS AND THAT THE NEW GOS APPEARED TO BE LESS CRITICAL OF THE WEST. THE SWEDES INDICATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SOEDER WAS FIRMLY AGAINST THE SOVIET NON-FIRST-USE PROPOSAL AND HAD INFORMED SOVIET AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH THAT INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A PROPOSAL AT BELGRADE WAS NOT THE WAY TO MAKE

PROGRESS (REF A).

3' WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE FRG POSITION ON MAJOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS (REF B), GESCHER RESPONDED THAT A NEW POSITION PAPER ADOPTING A MIDDLE COURSE HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR MINISTERIAL APPROVAL. ESSENTIALLY, THE FRG WORKING LEVEL BELIEVED THE FRG COULD AGREE TO THE PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS IF THE LEVEL WERE SET AT 10,000. A HIGHER LEVEL, SUCH AS 25,000, WOULD NOT BE AS MEANINGFUL. THE FRG DID NOT BELIEVE SUCH NOTIFICATIONS POSED A PROBLEM FOR THE WEST IN PEACETIME. GESCHER POINTED OUT THAT, IN TIME OF CRISIS, THE WEST WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS HANDS TO BE TIED BY SUCH A REQUIREMENT IN ANY EVENT. GESCHER SAID THE FRG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF THE LATEST U.S. THINKING ON THE SUBJECT'

4. WE USED THIS OCCASION TO MENTION PRIVATELY TO GESCHER THAT WE FORESAW POSSIBLE BENEFITS IF THE FRG WERE TO DECIDE TO INVITE OBSERVERS TO THEIR MAY MANEUVER (REF C). GESCHER SAID HE AGREED AND THAT IT WOULD HELP THE WEST BUILD A FAVORABLE RECORD PRIOR TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE' HE SAID THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD RECOMMENDED TO MINISTER LEBER AGAINST INVITING OBSERVERS, BUT THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN THE MINISTRY HAD ARGUED THAT THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS AT A SMALLER MANEUVER MIGHT BE MORE USEFUL TO THEM THAN AT A LARGER MANEUVER. GESCHER SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF EMBOFF'S COMMENT, HE WOULD REOPEN THE MATTER WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY.

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